

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, 20-25, 27, 28, and 32 are present in this application. Claims 20-23 have been withdrawn as allegedly being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1 and 24 are independent claims.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) – Lapointe, Srivastava

The rejection of claims 1-6, 8-13, 20-28, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaPointe in view of Srivastava is maintained. Claims 20-23 have not been examined. The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaPointe, Srivastava, in view of Chien is maintained.

Applicants traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to embodiments of an electronic equipment. The electronic equipment including at least one light source, in which light of the light source is guided and emitted from an operation member having translucent properties via an optical waveguide, wherein a phosphor emitting visible light by being excited by the light from the light source is contained in a path through which the light of the light source is guided. Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature that the light source is an LED (formerly claim 9).

Claim 24 is directed to embodiments of an electronic equipment. The electronic equipment includes a backlight and a wavelength-converting phosphor paint that emits light by being excited by the light of the backlight. Claim 24 has also been amended to include the feature that the backlight is an LED (formerly claim 26).

The Office Action indicates that Lapointe et al. discloses the light source 19 is the claimed LED (col. 5, lines 20-25). (Office Action at page 3). In addition, regarding claim 24, the Office Action states that, "the electroluminescent layer 31 in LaPointe is a backlight" (Office Action at page 7).

Applicants submit that Lapointe does not disclose an LED or a separate backlight light source for exciting phosphor, as required by the instant claims.

LaPointe discloses an electroluminescent lamp 19 that overlays a printed circuit board 21. An embodiment of the electroluminescent lamp is shown in Fig. 2 as element 19a. The electroluminescent lamp 19a includes an electroluminescent layer 31 composed of an electroluminescent material, such as copper-activated zinc sulphide (col. 4, lines 45-51), as well as a phosphor material (col. 5, line 24). The electroluminescent lamp is illuminated by impressing a voltage between front electrode 29 and back electrode 35. The voltage excites the phosphor material in electroluminescent layer 31 causing it to glow. An elastomeric sheet 17 overlays the electroluminescent lamp.

Thus, it can be seen that LaPointe's electroluminescent layer 31 is the light source, which is excited by application of a voltage. LaPointe's electroluminescent layer is not a backlight for exciting a phosphor. Furthermore, LaPointe's electroluminescent layer is not an LED.

At least for these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of LaPointe and Srivastava fail to teach each and every element of claims 1 and 24.

Furthermore, Srivastava discloses a light emitting diode (LED) including a phosphor for emitting green light. The LED, encapsulated in a resin 60, is contained in a housing 12 having a phosphor material 24 at a window 16 (see Fig. 2). The light emitting diode emits light at a first

wavelength and the phosphor receives the light and converts the light to a light of a second wavelength ("summary of the invention").

Because Srivastava discloses a light source directly below the phosphor material, even if LaPointe's electroluminescent layer 31 were to be replaced by the LED/phosphor of Srivastava, the replacement would render LaPointe's keypad unsuitable for its intended function. (see *M.P.E.P.* § 2143.01 V.) Exerting pressure on the key 15 of LaPointe would cause deflection of Srivastava's phosphor material, but not cause contact of the conductor 37.

In the present invention, the light source is separate from the phosphor material so that the phosphor can be changed along with the keytops and optical waveguide to another piece, without replacing the electronic equipment and light source (specification at page 6, para. 0029). The waveguide enables the LED to be displaced from being directly below the key.

In LaPointe, the light source and phosphor are one and the same.

At least for these additional reasons, Applicants submit that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

With regard to claim 25, the Office Action admits that LaPointe and Srivastava fail to disclose the claimed range for emission wavelength from 400 to 430 nm, and instead indicates that the applicant must show that the chosen dimensions are critical.

Criticality of the specific wavelength is disclosed in paragraph 0031 of the present specification, where it is pointed out that a light source emitting a wavelength smaller than 400 nm can cause damage to human eyes.

For at least this reason, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 25 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Further with respect to claim 32, the Office Action indicates that LaPointe discloses the phosphor material is in the electroluminescent layer, and therefore the phosphor surrounds the light source. Applicants disagree.

Applicants submit that the phosphor material of LaPointe is the source of light, and thus does not surround the light source, as required in the claim.

For at least this reason, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 32 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter, she is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222), who may be reached in the Washington, DC, area at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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